

QUARTERLY REPORT
NORTHWEST ALABAMA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

July 29, 2008

HCP PROJECT NO. 17239

1. Project Contact and coordination Information

- a. **Project Leader:** Mr. Skip Newman, Executive Director,
Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center
- b. **Address:** 1100 Seventh Avenue, Jasper, AL. 35501
Phone: 205/302-9017
Fax: 205/387-0599
Email: skip@nwamhc.com
- c. **Responsible Organization:** Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center (NWAMHC)
- d. **Regional and State Coordination:** The NWAMHC is coordinating implementation activities for its mental health network in northwestern Alabama. NWAMHC is keeping the Alabama Department of Public Health informed relative to its project implementation activities.

2. Network Health Care Facilities

- a. **Network User Addresses:**
NWAMHC Clinic sites to be served:

Fayette County Office – 123 Second Avenue NW, Fayette, AL. 35555,
RUCA Code No. 7, Phone: 205/932-3216, Census Tract No. 020300

Lamar County Office – 141 Second Avenue NW, Vernon, AL. 35592,
RUCA Code No. 10, Phone: 205/695-9183, Census Tract No. 030100

Marion County Office – 427 Smokey Bear Rd., Hamilton, AL 35570,
RUCA Code No. 10, Phone: 205/921-2186, Census Tract No. 984400

Marion County Office – 260 Baker Street, Winfield, AL. 35594, RUCA
Code No. 10, Phone: 205/487-2124, Census Tract No. 984700

Winston County Office – 71 Carraway Drive, Haleyville, AL. 35565,
RUCA Code No. 7, Phone: 205/486-4111, Census Tract No. 995700

Walker County Office & HQ – 1100 Seventh Avenue, Jasper, AL. 35501,
RUCA Code No. 4, 205/302-9017, Census Tract No. 020200

Walker Baptist Medical Center- 3400 U.S. Highway 78 East, Jasper, AL.
35501, RUCA Code No. 4, 205/387-4000, Census Tract No. 020300

b. Participating Institutions

The Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center is a public non-profit corporation formed under Section 501 C 3 and is therefore an eligible entity under Section 254 of the 1996 act. The Walker Baptist Medical Center is a private non-profit corporation and is considered an eligible entity under Section 254 of the 1996 act.

3. Network Narrative

At this point, bids have not been taken however, Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center has completed the design of its proposed network. The preferred option is for there to be a 100 MB connection serving each of the seven network sites. However, we are prepared to accept less than 100 MB connections since our survey of local telecommunications providers indicated that 100 MB service is not presently available to some of the network sites. The proposed network is approximately 149 miles in length. It is anticipated that the proposed network will consist of mostly aerial with some underground fiber optic cable. There are presently no plans to connect the new network to Internet 2, which has a node in Birmingham, however, a connection could be made. Network operations will be managed by NWAMHC staff.

4. List of Health Care Providers

The proposed network is not presently operational. The two network participants are the Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center and the Walker Baptist Medical Center which will provide psychiatric services over the network to Northwest's patients. The proposed network will be used to provide internet, voice, video and data services. Attached is a diagram of the proposed broadband network.

5. Quarterly Costs Incurred

To date, no costs have been incurred on this project since bids have not been taken and accepted for the proposed network. Network design costs were provided, at no cost, by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. USAC has budgeted a total of \$254,433.34 as the maximum amount that will be available during FY 2008 with a total project cost not to exceed \$381,650.01.

6. Cost Allocation By Source

Since bids have not been taken, actual project costs are not known at this time. Northwest and the Walker Baptist Medical Center are both eligible users under this FCC program. NWAMHC and Walker Baptist Medical Center will pay their pro rata share of eligible project costs from their general fund accounts. Both entities will only request FCC reimbursement for the FCC pro rata share of eligible recurring and non-recurring costs. The project budget contains no other grant or contributed funds. Since both participating entities are nonprofit

corporations, neither one would be financially able to undertake this project without the subsidies provided by this FCC program. The proposed health care network will enable these two entities to provide improved levels of service to rural patients at a reduced cost.

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7. **Technical or Non-Technical Procedures For Ineligible Network Participants**

No procedures have been developed to accommodate ineligible network users since no ineligible participants are anticipated.

8. **Project Management Plan Update**

There have been no changes relative to project leadership. Mr. John Skalnik continues to assist Mr. Skip Newman, Executive Director, of the Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center. A project schedule is listed below.

Project Schedule

Advertise Broadband Network RFP 2008	August 19,
Advertise RFQ for Selection of NWAMHC Telecom Equipment Installation Services 2008	August 26,
Select Low Network Bidder 2008	September 22,
Select Most Qualified NWAMHC Equipment Installer 26, 2008	September
Formal Approval of Low Network Bidder and NAMHC Equipment Installer by NWAMHC Board 30, 2008	September
Initiate Network Installation 2008	October 30,
Initiate NWAMHC Equipment Installation 2008	December 1,
Complete Broadband Network Installation to all 7 sites 30, 2009	April
Complete Equip. Installation at Jasper Clinic HUB Site	May 4, 2009
Complete Equip. Installation at Walker Baptist Hospital	May, 4, 2009
Complete Equip. Installation at Vernon Clinic Site	May 9, 2009
Complete Equip. Installation at Winfield Clinic Site 2009	May 14,
Complete Equip. Installation at Fayette Clinic Site 2009	May 18,

Complete Equip. Installation at Hamilton Clinic Site 2009	May	22,
Complete Equip. Installation at Haleyville Clinic Site 2009	May	26,
Complete Test of Entire Network	May 29, 2009	
Complete NWAMHC Equipment Installation 2009	May	30,
Initiate Broadband Network Services	June 1, 2009	

9. Network Sustainability

The new network will enable Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center to incur substantial savings by reducing travel costs between its six clinics. It will also be able to conduct staff training classes over the network, further reducing travel costs and lost staff time. The new network will greatly reduce the time needed to transmit patient records. The new network will reduce the need for some telephone lines and will substantially reduce the number of long distance phone calls between clinics resulting in additional savings. Overall administrative costs will be reduced as a result of the new network. In addition, network hub and other unused distance learning classroom equipment was given to Northwest and will be used to create video conferencing capabilities at Northwest's six rural mental health

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clinics. These savings will enable NWAMHC to afford to pay the network's monthly recurring costs when the FCC program subsidy ends.

10. Network Benefits

The primary goal of this project is to use FCC assistance to install a broadband network that will facilitate the delivery of telepsychiatry and other related services on a real time basis between NWAMHC's six mental health clinics and the Walker Baptist Medical Center. When completed the new broadband network will also provide internet, data, and video services to the six rural mental health clinics. Psychiatric services will be able to be delivered to the six clinics from the network hub at the Jasper clinic or directly from Walker Baptist Medical Center also in located in Jasper. The new network will further enable Northwest to greatly increase the amount of psychiatric services it delivers due to reduced travel times resulting from the implementation of this project. It will take about six months after the network becomes fully operational for these and other network benefits to be accurately determined.

11. Network Compliance With HHS Health IT Initiative

Participant actions to this point in time have been concentrated upon designing the proposed network and assessing broadband capabilities of the area's various telecommunications firms. Therefore, no progress has been made relative to

compliance with these various HHS initiatives. However, the new network will comply will do its best to incorporate these initiatives into its new broadband network.

12. Coordination with HHS, CDC, Local Public Health and EMA Agencies

The participant will coordinate with HHS, CDC as well as state and county public health and emergency management agencies. Northwest will make the network available to these agencies during national, state or local emergencies.

